

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015161

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: NASA EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE (LANDSAT) INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM.

1. ON FEBRUARY 12, 1975, NASA FORWARDED PROVISIONS FOR PARTICIPATION TO MINISTERIO DE OBRAS PUBLICAS FOR GOV SIGNATURE IN ORDER TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALBERTO ENRIQUES TO PARTICIPATE AS A PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) IN LANDSAT PROGRAM. DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT PI, NASA HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY. PROVISIONS FORWARDED IN RESPONSE TO GOV INVESTIGATION PROPOSAL TO NASA.

2. TIME IS BECOMING IMPORTANT FACTOR. IN ESSENCE, NASA IS HOLDING OPEN A SEGMENT OF ITS SATELLITE DATA GATHERING CAPACITY PENDING GOV'S DECISION TO USE IT. HOWEVER, SINCE FORWARDING OF PROVISIONS, ONE OF TWO ONBOARD TAPE RECORDERS HAS FAILED, SEVERELY LIMITING COVERAGE CAPABILITY IN AREAS OUTSIDE RANGE OF EXISTING GROUND RECEIVING STATIONS.

(VENEZUELAN TEST SITES ARE IN SUCH AN AREA.) MOREOVER, UNANTICIPATED HEAVY DEMANDS ON REMAINING TAPE RECORDER

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PAGE 02 STATE 015161

HAVE REDUCED EXPECTED LIFETIME. TO MAXIMIZE POSSIBILITY

OF LANDSAT COVERAGE OF PI'STEST SITE, SIGNED PROVISIONS
SHOULD BE RETURNED TO NASA ASAP.

3. REQUEST VERBAL EXPLANATION OF FOLLOWING TO GOV:
BECAUSE OF TAPE RECORDER CONSTRAINTS AND OTHER USER
DEMANDS, NASA CANNOT RESERVE SATELLITE TIME FOR
VENEZUELA INDEFINITELY IN ABSENCE OF RECEIPT OF
SIGNED PROVISIONS. REQUEST RESPONSE FROM GOV IN SIX
WEEKS. IF SIGNED PROVISIONS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN TWO
MONTHS, NASA WILL BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE GOV NO LONGER
INTERESTED IN PURSUING INVESTIGATION AND WILL CONSIDER
MATTER CLOSED. HOWEVER, HOPES ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE
FINALIZED. SISCO

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